



EASTERN WORKFORCE INNOVATION BOARD

LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT

We acknowledge that our office is situated on the traditional Audenosaunee Mohawk Territories with gratitude and respect, we acknowledge the significant contributions indigenous peoples have made to preserve the land around us.

WHAT YOU WILL FIND HERE

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NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 | MARCH 2024

WORDS FROM THE ED

Frank O'Hearn Executive Director



Hello everyone.

Greetings from the Eastern Workforce Innovations board of directors and staff. We wish everyone well as we move forward to the spring of 2024.

We look forward to the

continuation of this newsletter and our Labour Market Information Help Desk services to our citizens as we move into a new fiscal year. Our office also encourages you to review our most recent Labour Market Planning Report that is now posted on our web site: <https://www.workforcedev.ca/>

The weather is certainly positive as we move into the spring of 2024 and this topic is certainly the talk of the town. Great weather for a holiday in our beautiful region! Our local < maple > sugar producers may not be too keen to have this type of weather as it may impede on the flow of (maple) sap. We will, see? Mother nature is in control.

Our region will soon experience a solar eclipse on April 8, 2024 at 2:04p.m. and it will last for two and a half hours. Feedback from the hospitality sector is that there is significant interest from tourists to visit our region and experience a full eclipse. Information is that our Bed and Breakfast community are experiencing increased bookings as a result of this very unique phenomena.

Our goal is to nurture a strong workforce! Accurate and timely labour market information is a critical element to this exercise.

LABOUR MARKET OVERVIEW

Covid 19 and its ongoing impact on our local economy and workforce appears to be slowly drifting away and with this change comes opportunities. A number of the Employment Ontario offices in our area are experiencing increased activity in respect to their services and many are now active in organizing and promoting in-person job fairs across our region. This outreach is refreshing as the Covid environment did not allow this type of outreach to take place. Now some fairs did take place but most were electronic based and not in-person. One could reason that this type of electronic outreach was directed to those clients who were computer literate etc. and had the necessary tools to access these job fairs. Those clients with limited computer knowledge and no computer to access were in fact excluded. There are a number of clients who are in need of basic computer literacy training and would be deemed as disadvantaged. Computer literacy continues to be an issue for many of our citizens.

The needs for workers from our employer community continues and is evident across the sector (Hospitality, Health care, Skilled Trades). Their needs have not decreased and it is clearly evident in the number of job postings. Some Employment Ontario offices have indicated that they reason that many employers obtained a good number of resumes, potential applicants to draw from during the pandemic and are utilizing these files in their search for workers at this time. This reasoning is certainly logical.

It should be noted that the use of foreign students within the hospitality sector has had a very positive outcome for a number of our

employers over the past year. We have been advised by Employment Services agencies that a number of the workers at the local food courts, restaurants, hotels etc. in our region (Kingston, Brockville) do employ a significant number of foreign students. We do not have any data on this specific subject re the number of students - however we can report that approx. 44% of tourism jobs are in support occupations in food, accommodation. These students are eager to work and are motivated to work. The reduction of foreign student visas, hours of work will have a negative impact on the availability of workers for this sector.

It has been pointed out by one office that they are seeing a number of senior citizens coming into their offices for support/ re part time and full-time employment as they are in dire financial need as a result of increased costs associated with day-to-day living. It is unfortunate that there are no specific programs devoted to our older workers population. Now the positive side to this issue is the availability of this senior population to work will certainly assist a number of employers who wish to secure a mature and motivated worker.

In review - as everyone is aware, our key challenges and opportunities are:

- Labour shortages and the lack of qualified job seekers - most prevalent in health care, skilled trades and in hospitality and tourism industries.
- Available and affordable housing.
- Transportation
- Child Care
- Mental Health challenges

WHAT THE BOARD IS UP TO?

Local Labour Planning Report:

A presentation of the highlights of the LLMP Report was made December 13, 2023 by Sandra Wright. Guest speaker was Theo Grham who spoke about challenges and opportunities for small business. The LLMP Report was sent to the Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and Skills Development, posted on our website and distributed to the community February 2024

Workforce Development:

This is the final newsletter for this fiscal. The board will continue to host the Employment Network Committee meetings. It should be noted the Eastern Workforce Innovation Board will be looking for community input to the newsletter.

Employer Engagement:

The Labour Market Information (LMI) Help Desk is a tool that is offered to the public to answer questions about your local areas. The EWIB has hired a Local Labour Market Information Consultant to respond directly to your questions.

Our LMI Help Desk service can answer questions such as:

- What skills are in demand in my area?
- What is the demographic of workers in my area?
- What is the demand for my occupation?
- What is the breakdown of industries in my area?

We provide answers to questions about economic trends, industry and occupational breakdowns, wages demographics and more.

To ask a question, click here [LMI Help Desk - Ask a Question](#)



Jobs Tool 2020-2023:

The Jobs Tool application is available on our website: www.workforcedev.ca
This resource will provide an aggregate of jobs in our region with supporting information.

Videos of potential careers. Go to our website to see videos of careers in our region.

<https://www.workforcedev.ca/career-videos/>

Job Fairs:

We participated to direct job seekers to the website to ask questions about availability of certain jobs and sectors in Leeds and Grenville region. Both job fairs were well attended by employers and job seekers.. We anticipate to be more active in these types events.

FEATURE -A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE KINGSTON & DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL *By Doug Nesbitt*

The Kingston & District Labour Council's origins begin in 1894 with the formation of the Trades and Labor Council. It was formed in a new era of industrialization that continued until the outbreak of World War One. The TLC operated a hall in downtown Kingston where workers could associate and discuss common matters, including the achievement of better wages, union recognition and improved working conditions. The TLC's Arbitration Committee played an important role in this period to settle disputes, such as the contentious street railway lockout of 1901. New traditions were established, including annual Labour Day parades the endorsement of "labour candidates" in City Council elections. The strength of the early TLC peaked in 1919 when its threat of a city-wide sympathy strike helped end a bitter strike led by the women workers of the cotton mill owned by the corporate power, Dominion Textile.

Economic chaos and unemployment weakened the TLC during the interwar period. This changed with the outbreak of World War Two. New "industrial unions" were formed at the new ALCAN mill, Canadian Locomotive Company, DuPont and other war-related industries. The TLC's relationship with the new industrial unions, such as the Steelworkers and United Electrical Workers, was fraught with jurisdictional and political difficulties until the formation of the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) in 1956. Reorganized as the Kingston Labour Council in 1956, KLC began to assert itself in Kingston on questions of municipal ownership of utilities, public safety initiatives, local recreational amenities, and rent control.

Through the 1950s and 1960s, public sector unionism gathered strength. The Labour Council supported three illegal strikes by municipal employees between 1952 and 1961. With the support of labour councillors, the City of Kingston eventually agreed to recognize and bargain with the municipal workers' union many years before provincial legislation in 1966 compelled municipalities and school boards to do so.

Between the closure of the Canadian Locomotive Company in 1969 and major downsizing at ALCAN in the 1980s, deindustrialization transformed the character and composition of the renamed Kingston & District Labour Council. Private sector unions waned as public sector unionism expanded. As a result, a new generation of women leaders emerged, with Madeleine Anderson, a city employee, was elected KDLC's first woman president in 1974.

New initiatives in this era included support for unemployed workers and new co-operative housing initiatives. In the mid-1980s, KDLC waged a spirited campaign against the US-Canada free trade agreement. Only a few years later, KDLC launched its largest-ever political campaign against the austerity measures implemented by the provincial government of Premier Mike Harris. This included a "Community Day of Action" on June 8 1998, which involved a one-day political strike at all major Kingston employers, and upwards of ten thousands people marching through the downtown.

Since the 1990s, KDLC has continued to host important union educational programming, engaged municipal government, defended public services and assets against privatization and cuts, and sent delegations and representatives to lobby or participate in government and government-sanctioned bodies, such as the Eastern Workforce Innovation Board. The KDLC continues to organize and promote support for picketing workers and union certification drives.



LMI DATA FOR FRONTENAC AND LEEDS & GRENVILLE REGION

Below is an executive summary Report to include data, LMI, and statistics. It is an overview of the LLMP Report. Very useful information. This brochure along with one for the Frontenac Region and the Leeds & Grenville Region will be available on our website.

OCCUPATIONAL OUTLOOK: 2023 - 2028

Occupational Outlook for the EWIB Region

NOC - Occupation	2023 Employment	2028 Employment	Change	% Change
0 - Legislative and senior management occupations	408	426	17	4.3%
1 - Business, finance and administration occupations	20,379	21,376	997	4.9%
2 - Natural and applied sciences and related occupations	9,828	10,491	663	6.7%
3 - Health occupations	13,947	15,587	1,640	11.8%
4 - Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services	21,035	22,210	1,175	5.6%
5 - Occupations in art, culture, recreation and sport	2,240	2,364	123	5.5%
6 - Sales and service occupations	34,266	35,902	1,636	4.8%
7 - Trades, transport and equipment operators and related occupations	19,494	21,244	1,749	9.0%
8 - Natural resources, agriculture and related production occupations	1,936	2,154	218	11.2%
9 - Occupations in manufacturing and utilities	5,677	5,948	271	4.8%
X - Unclassified Jobs	2,420	2,580	160	6.6%
Total Jobs by Occupation	131,631	140,282	8,651	6.6%

Source: Lightcast Q3, 2023 (Industries with employees)
Totals may not add due to rounding.

Growth is expected in all occupations throughout the EWIB Region from 2023 to 2028.

The three (3) occupational sectors with the highest projected employment in 2028 are:

- Sales and service occupations (35,902),
- Occupations in education, law and social, community and government services (22,210) and,
- Business, finance and administration occupations (21,376).

INDUSTRY OUTLOOK: 2023 - 2028

Industry Outlook - EWIB Region

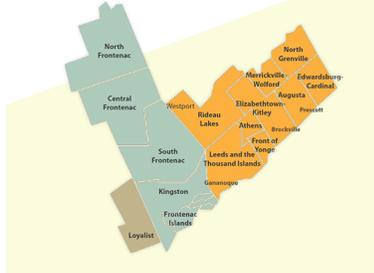
NAICS - Sector	2023 Employment	2028 Employment	Change	% Change
11 - Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting	1,025	1,066	41	4.0%
21 - Mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction	43	31	(12)	-28.3%
22 - Utilities	678	691	13	1.9%
23 - Construction	7,238	7,405	167	2.3%
31-33 - Manufacturing	9,680	10,396	716	7.4%
41 - Wholesale trade	3,914	4,016	101	2.6%
44-45 - Retail trade	15,045	15,206	161	1.1%
48-49 - Transportation and warehousing	4,509	5,166	657	14.6%
51 - Information and cultural industries	1,218	1,118	(100)	-8.2%
52 - Finance and insurance	2,872	3,010	139	4.8%
53 - Real estate and rental and leasing	2,169	2,339	169	7.8%
54 - Professional, scientific and technical services	5,592	6,080	487	8.7%
55 - Management of companies and enterprises	190	212	23	12.0%
56 - Administrative and support, waste management and remediation services	6,026	6,813	787	13.1%
61 - Educational services	15,797	16,776	979	6.2%
62 - Health care and social assistance	21,405	23,706	2,301	10.8%
71 - Arts, entertainment and recreation	1,932	1,970	39	2.0%
72 - Accommodation and food services	11,846	13,135	1,289	10.9%
81 - Other services (except public administration)	3,594	3,713	119	3.3%
91 - Public administration	14,429	14,841	412	2.9%
X0 - Unclassified Jobs	2,420	2,580	160	6.6%
Total Industry Jobs	131,622	140,271	8,649	6.6%

Source: Lightcast Q3, 2023 (Industries with employees)
Totals may not add due to rounding.

Employment growth is expected in all industries in the EWIB region except Information and cultural industries and mining, quarrying, and oil and gas extraction.

The three (3) industry sectors with the highest projected employment in 2028 are:

- Health care and social assistance (23,706),
- Educational services (16,776), and
- Retail trade (15,206)



Local Labour Market Plan (LLMP) Highlights 2023-24 April 2024

Area: 7512.67 sq. km
Population: 283,790
Men: 49.0% | Women: 51.0%

This Employment Ontario project is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario.



POPULATION AND INCOME INFORMATION

POPULATION FACTS

In 2021, the population of the EWIB Region was 283,790 compared to 267,992 in 2016. This is an increase of 15,800 (5.9%) in population since the 2016 Census. This is a greater population increase compared to Ontario and Canada at 5.5% and 5.2% respectively.

Median Age of Population

Region	Median Age 2016	Median Age 2021	Change
Leeds Grenville	49.3	50.8	1.5
Frontenac	43.6	43.2	-0.4
Loyalist	44.8	45.2	0.4
Ontario	41.3	41.6	0.3
Canada	41.2	41.6	0.4

Source: Statistics Canada Census Population Data, 2016, 2021

This data indicates that the EWIB Region has an older workforce and population than Ontario and Canada. It also shows that the EWIB Region experienced a positive growth in population.

INCOME

Median Total Annual Income by Gender (2020)

Region	2020		Change (Women vs Men)	% Change (Women vs Men)
	Total	Men		
Loyalist Township	\$46,400	\$51,600	\$41,000	-19.4%
Frontenac	\$42,000	\$46,400	\$38,800	-16.4%
Leeds and Grenville	\$41,600	\$46,800	\$37,600	-19.7%
Ontario	\$41,200	\$46,000	\$37,200	-19.1%

Source: Statistics Canada - 2021 Census - Median Total Income by Recipients 2020

There continues to be a significant disparity in median incomes between genders with male incomes being much higher.

The EWIB region has a higher median total income than Ontario. Men in both the EWIB Region and Ontario have significantly higher incomes than women. The EWIB Region reports higher incomes for both men and women compared to Ontario.

KEY TRENDS AND CHALLENGES

The common labour market challenges have been consolidated and summarized into the following five (5) categories below. Many of these challenges are similar to those in previous years.

1. Workforce
2. Education/Training
3. Social
4. Economy
5. Infrastructure

- #### 1. Workforce

 - Labour shortages have been identified across many industry sectors
 - Difficulty in retaining staff - due to increased job opportunities and diminished labour supply
 - Continued concerns about work ethics of workers - lack of motivation, increased absenteeism, lack of dedication and loyalty
 - Coping with an aging workforce, along with difficulty finding young workers with the necessary skills and/or experience
 - Difficulties attracting and retaining talent in rural areas
 - Backlog of immigrant approvals and slow credential recognition of newcomers
 - Employers need to appreciate work-life balances of employees
- #### 2. Education/Training

 - Continue to increase skills trades learning in high schools
 - Literacy and Basic Skills - continued need for these skills especially in communication
 - Need for digital literacy of workers
 - New hires lack soft/employability skills including: customer service, communications, conflict resolution and time management
 - Ensuring post-secondary programming matches local labour market requirements
 - Need for short-term retraining/re-skilling and pre-employment
 - Provide on-the-job training incentives for employers
- #### 3. Social

 - Continued addiction and mental health issues are barriers to employment or negatively impacting productivity
 - Poverty - living in poverty resulting in poor health, lack of access to employment and resources
 - Impact of isolation and abusive behavior in homes
- #### 4. Economy

 - Concern over the uncertainties of the economy
 - Inflation rates - despite coming down have already resulted in higher prices of goods for consumers
 - High interest rates significantly limiting big ticket item expenditures but also creating financial hardships for those needing to renew their mortgages
 - Continued high and fluctuating gas prices
 - Concern of impact in Canada pertaining to declining global economies and other factors
- #### 5. Infrastructure

 - Lack of available and affordable housing for local residents and adequate housing to attract and retain migrants to the area. Although housing prices are leveling off, increased interest rates are a deterrent in making new purchases and there is still the availability issue.
 - Shortage of available and affordable child care to support workers and encourage workers (usually women) to re-join the workforce. Ontario has signed the National Child Care Program agreement but some agencies are not entering into agreements due to the paper work involved and the large demand for existing spaces and clients willing to pay the going rates.
 - Although improving, there is still the lack of access to technology and broadband connectivity, especially in rural areas.
 - Lack of transportation (access to a vehicle, license or public transportation), especially in rural areas, or where work sites are located away from public transportation routes. Public transportation is not always convenient in meeting the scheduling needs of workers.

THE UPSIDE

The table below highlights some positive trends.

Lots of jobs.
Wages increasing.
Low unemployment.
National child care program approved for Ontario.
Inflation rates decreasing.
Projected job growth over the next 4 years.
Interest rates declining.
Highly educated workforce.
Affordable housing starts being promoted.
Transportation challenges on the radar.
Strong economy.
Employers developing initiatives to retain and hire workers.

CONTRIBUTIONS FROM CHAMBERS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ORGANIZATIONS

KEDCO

KINGSTON YOUNG PROFESSIONALS CURLING & NETWORKING EVENT

Get ready to rock the rink and build meaningful connections at the Kingston Young Professionals Curling & Networking Event! Get ready to rock the rink and build meaningful connections at the Kingston Young Professionals Curling & Networking Event! This is your chance to embrace the spirit of winter, bond over the beloved Canadian sport of curling, ...[Get Tickets](#)

Date: Wednesday, March 20, 2024
Time: 5:30 pm - 8:30 pm
Place: Royal Kingston Curling Club, 130 Days Road, Kingston
Cost: \$20.00 - \$32.00

UNLOCK THE SECRETS OF SELLING YOUR BUSINESS SUCCESSFULLY!

Are you a business owner considering your exit strategy? Join us for an empowering event that will demystify the process of selling your business. Session highlights: Exit Strategy Unveiled: Navigate the maze of options; intergenerational transition, transition to key employees, or a strategic 3rd party. Business Valuation Insights: Understand the methods used for evaluating the price ...[Get Tickets](#)

Date: Thursday, March 21, 2024
Time: 9:00 am - 10:30 am
Place: Anonymous Webinar
Cost: Free

BROCKVILLE AND DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE THE MAYOR'S BREAKFAST 2024

Mayor Jeff Shaver cordially invites you to Augusta Township's annual Mayor's Breakfast where he and his guests will give an economic development update for the Township and surrounding area.

This year's theme will be "Dream, Dare, Deliver".

Date: Friday, March 22, 2024
Time: 7:30 am
Place: Roebuck Community Centre, 7024 County Rd 18, Spencerville
Cost: \$20.00 per person. Entrance/Breakfast can be paid for at the Township Office (3560 County Road 26) by Debit Cash Cheque Entrance/Breakfast can also be paid for by e-transfer by emailing tax@augusta.ca (please be sure to mention in the email your name and that it is payment for the Mayor's breakfast).
Payment will not be accepted at the door.

IMPORTANT: In order for your registration to be complete, you must complete the form and submit your payment by March 14, 2024. Once payment is received, you will receive a confirmation of registration email.

Click link to register: <https://augusta.ca/business-growth/economic-development-2/mayors-breakfast-2024/>

JOIN US IN WELCOMING OUR NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

Meeting will include a President's report, financial report, what we did in 2023 & outlook for 2024

Special Recognition Ceremony - "Lifetime Business Achievement Award" & New in 2024 "Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award"

Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024
Time: Registration & Networking @ 8:00 am to 8:30 am
Breakfast @ 8:30 am
AGM Meeting @ 9:00 am
"2024 Lifetime Business Achievement Award" presentation @ 10:00 am
New for 2024 "Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award" presentation @ 10:30 am
Place: Brockville Country Club 1548 King Street, Brockville ON
Cost: \$39.00 (plus HST) Members and \$44.00 (plus HST) Non-Members

Please advise if you have special dietary needs Pre-registration is required no later than Friday, March 15th Cancellations after March 15th and no shows will be billed.

UNITED COUNTIES LEEDS & GRENVILLE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

PRESCOTT SPRING HOME & TRADE SHOW

Presented by Ontario Approved Professionals.

Vendor and sponsor opportunities available to businesses.

Dates: Thursday, March 21, 2004 to Saturday March 23, 2024
Times: Thursday & Friday: 3:00 pm to 8:00 pm; Saturday 9:00 am to 2:00 pm
Place: Leo Boivin Community Centre 444 Prince Street, Prescott ON
Cost: \$3.00 Per Person
\$5.00 Per Couple
Free children under the age of 12 years.

www.oapevents.ca

EMPLOYMENT ONTARIO AGENCIES UPDATE

ACFOMI

RESUME WITH IMPACT

Trends are changing and so is the perception of resumes. Today, employers increasingly see the resume as a promotional tool, through which the candidate sells himself, rather than a simple document summarizing the candidate's employment history. Since the time spent reading a resume is very limited, it is important that the information presented is judicious and accurate in order to maximize its impact.

Summary of the content of the workshop:

- Creation of the CV from start to finish, in French and English
- Writing a Binding Summary of Qualifications
- Writing action sentences to capture employers' attention
- Writing clear and concise explanations of work experience
- Choosing the CV style best suited to the current needs of the participants

Date: Tuesday, April 2, 2024
Time: 15:00 - 16:00

KEYS

JOB FAIR - KEYS ANNUAL JOB FAIR

Kingston's Largest Job Fair. Free Admission. Registration is not necessary to attend the Job Fair. But by registering, you will receive many perks like a list of the employers who are hiring, a professional resume and free printing and tips to prepare for the job fair & stand out from the crowd.

Date: Tuesday, April 9, 2024
Time: 11:00 am to 4:00 pm
Place: Portsmouth Olympic Harbour
Cost: Free

STUFF YOU NEED TO KNOW

North Grenville launches public transit. The municipality's firm form of public transit, call Ngtransit, launched in January in an effort to service the region's rapidly growing population. "After extensive consultation with rural transit experts, we are thrilled to be launching Ngtransit so that we can better respond to the needs of more residents and businesses," Mayor Nancy Peckford said in a statement. The single transit bus will now be accessible to residents travelling anywhere with North Grenville's sprawling boundaries, and will be available on an on-demand basis. The municipality previously had a transportation service exclusively for seniors and people with disabilities, but the new system will be the first municipal-wide option for the public at large.

Business seminars find home in local library. When the city's business development office decided to offer free, monthly business seminars in person, holding them at local libraries was a natural fit. Rob Tamblyn, business development manager -small and medium enterprises for Kingston Economic Development, said library branches have more to offer than just being communal spaces. Tamblyn said he was thrilled that 15 people attended the Dec. 28 session of "Exploring Entrepreneurship at the Kingston Frontenac Public Library's Central Branch on Johnson Street. The sessions will be held on the last Thursday of every month. "Improving Your Digital Presence" will be held at Isabel Turner Branch ever second Tuesday of the month. Among the topics to be discussed during the free seminars will be business planning, digital marketing strategies, financial management and technological advancements.

Rose Wood saw an opportunity when the restaurant and the Mazinaw Lakeside resort closed down. She had experience in the restaurant business in Denbigh where Rose owned a pizza restaurant several years ago. It was the right time to get back in the restaurant business, so she entered into a lease and opened R + L Eatery in July. The Eatery is located at the north end of Mazinaw Lake, about 12 minutes from Cloyne and 18 minutes from Denbigh on Hwy 41. "The business is different, of course, and involves establishing relationships with local groups and catering to their needs. But groups like the Old Pharts, Mazinaw Powerline and hydro crews, are all looking for a place meet and to eat, and we are happy to have the business."

Brockville Medical Clinic Closes Down. Just three months after its grand opening, the Good Doctors Medical Clinic at Leeds Pharmacy in Brockville has closed its doors. The pharmacy says its agreement with Good Doctors, a private company that provides virtual services from doctors who bill the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP), has come to an early end. Pharmacist Therese Guirguis, who owns Leeds Pharmacy with her husband Tamer Badawy, said it was their choice to end the partnership, and that there were several factors that led to the difficult decision. The main thing, she said, was that the province recently announced a primary care clinic in Mallorytown, an option she believes will better serves patients.

George Tackaberry gets lifetime Business Achievement Award. Athens construction mogul and philanthropist George Tackaberry is the latest recipient of the Brockville and District Chamber of Commerce's Lifetime Business Achievement Award. Best known as the founder and president of G. Tackaberry & Sons Construction Company Limited, George Tackaberry "has devoted himself to improving the lives of others through his professional and personal endeavors" Chamber officials said in their announcement. The

award, sponsored annually by the 1000 Islands Community Development Corporation, sees an independent committee of judges chose a recipient following multiple criteria, including community involvement, mentorship, economic impact, job creation, volunteerism, longevity and personal or corporate generosity.

Chamber, city partnership to offer reduced transit costs. Employees at hundreds of local businesses are to have access to low-cost transit passes thanks to a partnership between Kingston Transit and the Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce. The program is to be available to about 18,000 employees. "More than 650 Kingston businesses who are memb3rs of the chamber will now have this benefit," said Karen Cross, CEO of the Greater Kingston Chamber of Commerce. "The Employer Transpass Program provides significant value for employees and employers across Kingston and we are pleased to enter into this agreement with the Chamber of Commerce" Employees interested in joining the program need to contact the chamber of commerce to register.

Brockville hires new tourism co-ordinator. City officials announced the hiring of Kelly Brintnell, who experience in the tourism are excited about what she will bring to the role," Mayor Matt Wren said in a prepared statement. Brintnell, who stated with city in January. In their announcement city officials aid that, in their newly-created role, Brintnell "will strive to create and evolve innovative tourism products, experiences, and services for the market, bringing with he a wealth of knowledge in the tourism and hospitality field, more specifically within destination marketing organization (DMOS)"

Kemptville students help local businesses. Students at the local high school used a class project to help one local business boost its marketing plan. A Student startup at North Grenville District High School was created as part of a real-world learning (RWL) experience this semester, and ended up "significantly" boosting the online presence of local company Ben's BS Small Batch Barbeque Sauce, the Upper Canada District School Board sad in a press release. "It was a great opportunity to have other people help me with my business," said Ben Macpherson, owner of the company. The NG Knights Media Marketing startup was created in September by three Grade 12 students enrolled in the communications technology class. The team, consisting of Liam Steadman, Jacob Smith and Trinity Morrice, wrapped up its initial project with a promotional video for a local Habitatat for Humanity build.

After more than three decades helping secure economic development dollars for the area, Tom Russell is calling it a career. The 1000 Islands Community Development Corporation officially announced the retirement of its long-serving executive director, who is expected to leave the post around the end of April. Russell is also Brockville's most recent Citizen of the Year.

LINKS TO COMMUNITY PARTNERS

For Links to our community partners click on the link below to go to our website
<https://www.workforcedev.ca/community-partners/>



This Employment Ontario project is funded in part by the Government of Canada and the Government of Ontario
The views expressed in this document do not necessarily reflect those of Employment Ontario.